The work of discharging part of the largest military force in American history began to pile up after the surrender of Japan. Dussler barely had time to reflect on his role in the war effort. He recalled in his letters that he remembered vaguely Colonel Tibbets, whose 509th Composite Group trained at Wendover during the winter of 1944–45, after learning he had gained fame by dropping the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima. Otherwise, his only comments were that "it looks like I am going to be the only one who is going to be discharged twice from Wendover Field (once before, 29 November 1941)."[57]

On October 14, 1945, Byron Dussler was sent to the separation center at Boise, Idaho, where he was mustered out of the army air force. This act alone improved his attitude toward the military, but it did not end his tour at Wendover Field. Three days later he returned to the Utah desert base as a civilian and continued his separation work. Master Sergeant Casey became Mr. Casey. His skills were too great to be lost, so the Second Air Force, his unit's parent command, approved his continuation until the rush of discharges following the war had been processed.[58] Dussler worked at Wendover throughout the winter of 1945–46, receiving high praise for his efforts. Finally, in March 1946 his work there ended. He wrote as an epilogue to a long career at Wendover: "As I pack to leave I think of the words of the mass I used to listen for:

Ite. Missa est.

Go. It is finished."[59]

Byron Dussler's air force had been one filled with paperwork, bureaucracy, and internal politics. It was one that Dussler hated and one that he loved. When the war ended, however, he did not abandon government service. Instead, in 1946 he entered the permanent civil service and went to Japan as a civilian clerk with the United States Army of Occupation. In 1950 he returned to the United States and his home in Atwood, Illinois, where he continued in federal service two more years at an army signal depot. When a petrochemical complex opened a few miles from his home, Dussler left civil service and worked there until his retirement at age sixty-two. He still lives in Atwood.

[57]Ibid., September 3, 1945.
[58]Ibid., September 29, 1945; October 14, 1945; November 19, 1945.
[59]Byron Dussler, "Epilogue," March 1946, Wendover Files.

Housewives, Hussies, and Heroines, or the Women of Johnston's Army

BY AUDREY M. GODFREY

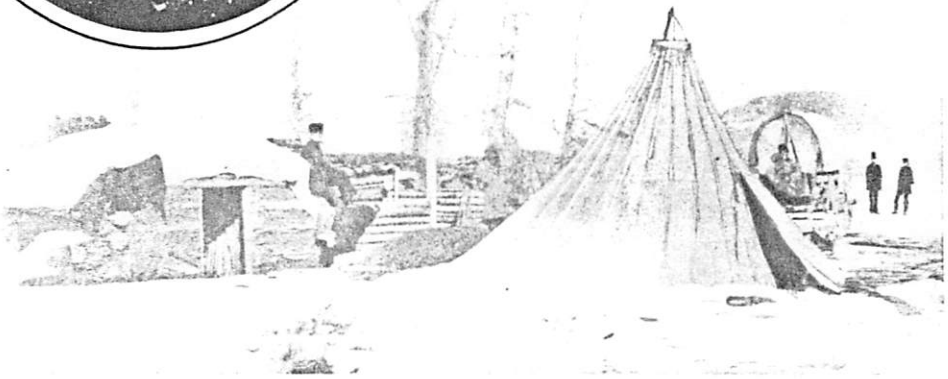
AMONG THOSE WINTERING WITH JOHNSTON'S ARMY near Fort Bridger in 1857, when bad weather and delays forced encampment, were three women — representative of many — Louisa Canby, Elizabeth Cumming, and Mrs. Marony. Louisa was the wife of Col. E.R.S. Canby, a career military man who would later establish Fort Bridger as an army post. Louisa had followed him on each tour of duty and

Mrs. Godfrey lives in Logan, Utah.

Stagecoach Inn, Camp Floyd State Park, was built in 1858 by the Carson family as a hotel near the military camp. Ca. 1960 photograph was taken before its restoration. USHS collections.

Elizabeth Cumming, wife of Territorial Gov. Alfred Cumming, was one of the genteel women accompanying Johnston's Army. Courtesy of Special Collections, Marriott Library, University of Utah.

Camp Scott, near Fort Bridger, where Johnston's Army wintered on its way to Utah. Photograph by David A. Burr, USHS collections.



However, some did not seem to suffer from these shortages. Lieutenant Gove enjoyed the talents of Mrs. Marony as she created delicacies from canned tongue and served salad, biscuits, butter, hot coffee, and milk toast. Her husband was able to transfer into Gove's company to enable her to work for the lieutenant. Her son Johnny often came with her, and Gove thought it refreshing to see a little